

October 10, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Michigan Supreme Court to hear sex case; Oakland Township man challenges 2006 conviction

"The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments today in the case of an Oakland Township man who's seeking to have his sexual assault conviction overturned. Jacob Trakhtenberg, 75, has spent the past six years in prison after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 7-year-old relative. He has repeatedly denied assaulting the girl."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Supreme Court Hears First Oral Arguments of 2012-2013 Session; Two Medical Marihuana Cases, 10 Others to Be Heard Oct. 9-11

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Pugh: Detroit police trying to thwart traffic ticket revenue

"City Council President Charles Pugh wants an investigation into an alleged concerted effort by the Detroit Police officers to reduce revenue generated at 36th District Court on traffic tickets. Pugh told Chief Judge Kenneth King and Interim Chief Chester Logan about the allegation in a memo that says officers are unprepared in court in order to make sure cases don't move forward."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh wants investigation into cops and tickets

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: City's top lawyer sued for lack of action

"Krystal Crittendon, the top City of Detroit lawyer who drew fire for challenging the city's financial stability agreement with the state, was sued Tuesday for failing to also challenge Mayor Dave Bing for hiring an outside legal counsel to represent him in the battle.... It is one of at least 10 lawsuits that Davis, an AFSCME employee, and the union local have filed in Ingham and Wayne counties over various aspects of the state's emergency manager law as it has been used in Detroit and the Highland Park and Detroit schools.

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Lawsuit aims to stop Detroit's payments for outside legal work

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Highland Park Schools official sues district's EM

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: 2 court battles on affirmative action could affect admissions at Michigan schools

"Nearly a decade ago, attorneys representing the University of Michigan stood in front of the U.S. Supreme Court defending how the school used race in its admissions decisions. The result was a landmark ruling governing race and universities."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Supreme Court reconsiders race in college admissions

[Full story](#)

The Alpena News: New foster care program coming

"Starting next year, and in cooperation with Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health, the Department of Human Services child welfare offices, and local family courts, Child and Family Services of Northeast Michigan will offer a specialized foster care program for children with emotional issues in Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties as an alternative to residential placement in far away treatment facilities."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: First graduate of Lenawee County's sobriety court program congratulated

"A Tecumseh man was applauded and embraced by the judge who took his last guilty plea to drunken driving when he graduated Monday from Lenawee County District Court's new sobriety court program.... He graduated from the court program by completing a required 52 weeks of counseling and documented sobriety for at least the last 90 days."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Former Piston Flip Murray owes Pontiac woman thousands in child support

"Former Detroit Piston Ronald "Flip" Murray received a delayed sentence of 11 months in jail on a charge of desertion and abandonment on Tuesday. Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien handed down the sentence, which will only go into effect if Murray fails to pay the \$53,053 in child support that he owes to a Pontiac woman."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily and the Oakland Press.

The Dexter Leader/Saline: ELECTION PREVIEW: Fink, Kuhnke squaring off for 22nd Circuit Court judge post

"One of two contested races in the Washtenaw County 22nd Circuit Court judge races involves two local attorneys, non-incumbents James Fink and Carol Kuhnke. The two are facing off Nov. 6 in the non-partisan race for Judge Melinda Morris' position on the court. Morris is unable to run for re-election due to a state constitutional law stating a candidate must be younger than age 70 at the time of election."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: DMBA Mixer

"Twenty-six judges attended the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Bench Bar Night at the Detroit Beer Company on Oct. 4. The event was sponsored by Dykema and the Law Offices of David J. Winter."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Circuit Court Family Division honored by Supreme Court

"The Michigan Supreme Court has given one of its recently-established Robert E. Weiss awards to the 17th Circuit Court Family Division for something the court has been doing for 30 years. The Kent County Interagency Adoption Resource Committee (IARC) began meeting three decades ago at the behest of then-judge John P. Steketee, and has met continuously since then."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Douglas won't appeal court ruling on property taking case

"Douglas will not appeal a recent state Court of Appeals decision that confirmed the city's role in a property takings case and is redefining damages the city must pay to a developer.... The city could have appealed to the state Supreme Court, but will not, [City Manager Bill LeFevere] said."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Benchmarking sobriety: Holland judges honored for alcohol-treatment court

"A creative approach to trying and sentencing drunken drivers has earned Holland's two 58th District Court judges this year's Michigan District Judges Association's Judicial Excellence Award, a nod from their peers for 'serving the state and local community in an exemplary manner.' Judges Bradley Knoll and Judge Susan A. Jonas have run a special court, the Sobriety Treatment Program, since 2004."

[Full story](#)

HOM-TV/Okemos: Ballot Meridian 2012: Michigan Supreme Court candidate interviews with host Jo Anne Paul.

Justice Stephen Markman incumbent (25 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Justice Brian Zahra incumbent (25 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Judge Sheila Johnson (26 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Judge Connie Marie Kelley (25 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Attorney Kerry Morgan (25 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Attorney Bob Roddis (25 minute video)

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: 2 in race for Manderfield's 30th Circuit Court seat

"Ken Ross is trying to make an unusual career transition: from attorney for a bank to circuit court judge. His opponent in the race for a seat on Ingham County's 30th Circuit Court, attorney Jim Jamo, has been practicing for more than 27 years. Jamo also is a trained mediator and sits as a case evaluator for civil cases in three local counties, including Ingham."

[Full story](#)

****The article is available by subscription only.**

Ludington Daily News: LDN candidates forum Oct. 23,

"The Ludington Daily News, the Mason-Lake Bar Association and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women are co-sponsoring a candidates forum Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Center Stage Theater on the campus of West Shore Community College. It will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Featured will be the Mason County probate judge race between Nick Krieger and Jeff Nellis [among other candidates]."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Legal system gets workout on road to ballot

"The November ballot in Michigan will be peppered with measures that endured legal tussles just to make it there. Some political observers say they can't remember an election where courts played such a major role. Several high-stakes ballot proposals were challenged all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Attorney General Bill Schuette wins bid to argue 'juvenile lifers' cannot be resentenced

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has approved a request by Attorney General Bill Schuette to join a case that will decide if hundreds of inmates serving mandatory life terms must be resentenced, possibly to lesser terms.... Arguments will be heard next Tuesday. [October 16]."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Cancer returns, legal case dismissed, for boy whose parents fought to discontinue chemo

"Jacob Stieler, the boy whose parent waged a legal battle to discontinue his chemotherapy treatments, recently underwent surgery after his cancer returned, the family's lawyer said.... An appeal of the medical neglect case against his parents, Erin and Kenneth Stieler, has been dismissed. The Stielers and Department of Human Services agreed to the dismissal because the 'controversy is now moot,' according to the Thursday, Oct. 4, order issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Centennial Red Mass at UDM Law

"The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law conducted its Centennial Red Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church in Detroit. The custom of a special religious ceremony for all members of the bench and bar at the opening of each term of the court arose principally in England, France, and Italy in the early 13th century."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: GPS "House Arrest" Tether Not Available for Drunk Driving Sentences

"... There is a certain class of offenders, however, that cannot take advantage of the virtual work release program, and must do their time in a physical jail cell. The Michigan Court of Appeals' decision in *People v Pennebaker* takes the 'house arrest' sentencing option away from sentencing judges in felony drunk driving cases."

[Full story](#)

Petoskey News-Review: Gov. appoints Petoskey lawyer as district court judge

"Gov. Rick Snyder today, Wednesday, announced the appointment of James Erhart, of Harbor Springs, to the 90th District Court covering Emmet and Charlevoix counties. His appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Richard May.... Erhart said a date for his swearing-in as judge has yet to be determined. In the meantime, May continues to handle judicial duties for the district court as a visiting judge."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Breaking: Governor Appoints James Erhart To 90th District Court, Emmet County

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: The Judges Behind Michigan's Jury Reforms Honored

"The Michigan Supreme Court and the twelve judges who pilot tested jury reforms over two years have been awarded [with] the National Center for State Courts' 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation. The Munsterman Award recognizes states, local courts, organizations or individuals that have

made significant improvements or innovations in jury procedures, operations and practices. The judges were honored yesterday at the opening session of the new term in the State Capitol."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Changes to Jury System Yields Award

[Full story](#)